

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: SENV, UN, GW

SUBJ: FRG IMPRESSIONS AND PLANS AFTER THE HABITAT
CONFERENCE

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED HABITAT CONFERENCE WITH HANS
PFLAUMER OF THE HOUSING MINISTRY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR HABITAT IN THE FRG. PFLAUMER WAS THE DEFACTO HEAD
OF THE FRG DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE.

2. PFLAUMER BELIEVES THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WESTERN
ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE CONFERENCE WAS THE REFUSAL TO CAVE
IN TO G-77 ATTEMPTS TO POLITICIZE THE PROCEEDINGS.
HE BELIEVES SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE IN CONVINCING THIRD
WORLD COUNTRIES THAT THEY COULD GAIN NOTHING IN
MULTILATERAL FORUMS THROUGH A CONFRONTATIONAL
STRATEGY. PFLAUMER IS NOT SURE, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE
WEST DID ENOUGH BEFORE HABITAT TO PUT FORWARD ITS
POSITION AND CONVINCE THE THIRD WORLD THAT CONFRONTA-
TION IS FRUITLESS. HE SUSPECTS THAT WISHFUL THINKING
HAD CREATED THE WEST'S OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF
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GOOD G-77 BEHAVIOR AT HABITAT. PFLAUMER BELIEVES

THE WEST SHOULD ASSUME THE WORST WHEN PREPARING
AND PROSELYTIZING FOR MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES.

3. AS A PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, PFLAUMER
FELT THAT HABITAT WAS A DISASTER. HE WAS SATISFIED
WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL ACTION AND THE
PROGRAM ON COOPERATION. BUT THESE STATEMENTS WOULD
NEVER BE GIVEN CONCRETE FORM WITHOUT OPERATIONAL
AGREEMENT ON THE FUNDING, ORGAHIZATION, AND LOCATION
OF A RESPONSIBLE BODY FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MATTERS.
ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRESS CAN ALSO NOT BE MADE BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO WHOM THE PROBLEM WAS REFERRED.

4. PFLAUMER THUS FORESEES NO OPERATIONAL PROGRESS
DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THE FRG WILL MAKE NO NEW
INITIATIVES ON HABITAT, ALTHOUGH, IF THE SUBJECT IS
RAISED, THE FRG WILL GIVE ITS VIEW. PFLAUMER BELIEVES
THE FRG WILL MERELY SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE BEHIND THE
SCENES FOR THE TIME BEING. HE SEES NO REASON
TO PRESS A SOLUTION ON ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION WHICH
WOULD INFURIATE THE KENYANS. PFLAUMER WILL CHAIR AN
INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO HABITAT IN
AUGUST. SINCE HABITAT WOULD HAVE TO BE CARVED OUT OF
THE EXISTING FRG BUDGET, HE EXPECTS THE OTHER
AGENCIES TO READILY AGREE TO HIS PLANNED DO-NOTHING
APPROACH.
CASH

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